(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Agricultural development is a priority sector in the Five Year Plans of the country. The Government recognises the importance of giving appropriate incentives to farmers for increasing agricultural production and also their farm incomes. There are various plan schemes which provide economic incentives to the cultivators to invest more for increasing production e.g. input subsidies, concessional credit, crop insurance besides price/marketing support.

The Plan specially makes provision for motivating the farmers towards socio economically optimal and more remunerative crop patterns by ensuring the necessary input packages, technology and marketing/price back up.

National consensus on reservation issue

2457. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of anti-reservation agitaion in Gujarat, the Prime Minister had assured to evolve a National Consensus on this issue; and

(b) if so, what efforts were made in this regard by Government and what are the results achieved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) In a Press Conference held at Ahmedabad on 23rd March, 1985, Prime Minister had stated in reply to a question, as below:

"We would have to examine this the question of reservations properly. We will have to talk to people to evolve a consensus and to work it out quickly. we will talk to the State authorities and see what they have to say".

(b) Home Minister had addressed the Chief Ministers in May 1985, in the light of pro-reservation and anti-reservation agitations in some parts of the country suggestions to them to maintain *status quo* on the issue of reservation for other backward classes till a national consensus is evolved. Prime Minister had held a meeting with opposition leaders on 7th August, 1985 in which it was agreed that a factual document will be prepared. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations were addressed for submitting detailed factual information on various aspects of reservation and the information received has been complied.

Crop Insurance Scheme

2458. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what amounts have been financed by Banks in different States in India, Statewise during the last three years under crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether this scheme has given any benefit to agriculturists; if so, what are the details thereof; state-wise; and

(c) what amount has been advanced under the crop Insurance Scheme in Orissa for the year 1985-86 and to how many cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme has been under implementation from Kharif 1985 season. The details regarding Bank loans in different States covered under Crop Insurance Scheme are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. In Kharif 1985 season indemnity claims for Rs. 81.00 crore were paid by the General Insurance Corporation of India against a premium income of only Rs. 9.41 crore. State-wise details regarding payment of indemnity claims and premium income during Kharif 1985, Rabi 1985-86 and Kharif 1986, are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) No amounts are advanced under Crop Insurance. However, details of business done in Orissa are given as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Season	No. of farmers	Sum Insured	Premium Income	Claims paid
Kharif 1985	95,708	1,753,24	35·07	8·05
Rabi 1985-86	35,059	1,067.44	21.35	Nil
Kharif 1986	70,209	1,347·58	26·95	N.A.

Statement-I

Details regarding Bank Loans in different States covered under Crop Insurance Scheme

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of States /Uts.	Kharif 1985	Rabi 1985-86	Kharif 1986 (As on 15-10-86)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	117.95	22.74	62·86
2	Assam	..	..	Data not received.
3	Bihar	4·48	1·11	0·46
4	Gujarat	73·04	3·83	98·33
5	H. P.	..	..	Data not received.
6	J. & K.	..	..	Do.
7	Karnataka	18·24	3·69	8·22
8	Kerala	4·94	3·95	3·16
9	Madhya Pradesh	9.35	4·05	16·18
10	Maharashtra	51·26	2.82	78·40
11	Orissa	11.68	7·11	8·98
12	Tamil Nadu	12.75	11.82	7·30
13	Uttar Pradesh	38·13	71.75	23.40

1	2	3	4	5
14	Rajasthan	..	11·22	27·81
15	Tripura	..	0·35	0·36
16	West Bengal	18.84	18·55	7·54
	UTs :			
17	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0·06	0·66	0·05
18	Delhi	..	0·04	N.A.
19	Goa, Daman & Diu	..	0·02	0·10
20	Pondicherry	0·35		0·04
	TOTAL :	361·07	163·71	343·19

Statement -II

State-wise details regarding Payment of indemnity claims and premium income during Kharif 1985, *Rabi*, 1985-86 *and Kharif* 1986

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Kharif 1985		Rabi 1985-86		Kharif 1986	
		Premium Income	Claims Paid	Premium Income	Claims paid/ payable	Premium Income	Claims paid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Fradesh	323·11	310·83	57·59	—	170 14	**
2	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	
3	Bihar	13·44	1·23	3·33	—	1·37	
4	Gujarat	134·27	5355.27	7·78	26·45	187·16	
5	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	0·28	
6	Karnataka	48·04	287·51	8·74	29.79	22.09	
7	Kerala	14·83	37.90	11·88	1·24	9·49	
8	Madhya Pradesh	28·06	21·59	10·65	—	42.66	
9	Maharashtra	135 48	1978·14	8·42	88·60	215·31	
10	Orissa	35 07	8·05	21·35	—	26·95	
11	Rajasthan	—	—	27·52	13·09	83·44	
12	Tamil Nadu	37·50	56·40	31·55	0·72	21·17	
13	Tripura	—	—	1·04	3·92	1·09	
14	Uttar Pradesh	113·66	9·95	193·62	—	70·01	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	West Bengal . .	56·76	23·31	55·63	—	22·66	
16	Pondicherry . .	1·06	2·94	1·97	—	0·12	
17	Goa Daman & Diu .	—	—	0 05	—	0·29	
18	Delhi . . .	—	—	0·11	—	—	
19	A & N . . .	0·17	—	—	—	0·16	
	TOTAL :	941·45	8093·12	441·23	163·81	874·39	

**States have not yet furnished yield estimates for settlement of claims.

Rate of interest on agricultural loan

2459. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high rate of interest on agricultural loans have made agricultural production unremunerative;

(b) whether Government have any information on various incentives and concessional rate of interest or interest free credit available to farmers in different countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The rates of interest on agricultural loans charged to ultimate borrowers by the Cooperative Credit Institutions, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks are already low as compared to commercial rates of interest. Currently the rates of interest on short-term agricultural loans range between 11.50 per cent to 16.50 per cent per annum depending on the size of loans. The rates of interest charged on medium-term and long-term loans range between 10.00 per cent to 12.50 per cent per annum depending on the purpose of loans. It is estimated that around 40 per cent of agricultural credit is provided by the Institutional Agencies. The prevailing rates of interest on agricultural loans do not adversely affect economics of agricultural production.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of the rates of interest on agricultural loans in some foreign countries. They vary from country to country. The rate of interest on agricultural loans is 11 per cent in Pakistan between 9.50 per cent and 14 per cent in Sri Lanka, 12 per cent and 21 per cent in Indonesia, 14 per cent and 16 per cent in Thailand and 13 per cent and 18 per cent per annum in South Korea.

Setting up of Commodity Boards

2460. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up Commodity Boards in the country for crops like, wheat, paddy, cotton etc. on the lines of tea, rubber boards; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The country has achieved significant increase in the production of wheat, rice and cotton through the present system in which extension service is the responsibility of the State Government. Hence a Board type of tructure on the pattern of Rubber and Tea Boards is not considered necessary.